To what extend do you agree that films **offer insight into society (past or present)?**

Respond to this question with **close reference** to a film (or films) you have studied.

Class points:

* Helen Dickson, her efforts to help show the community spirit
* ‘I have just had my hips done. Hang on it might take me a minute’
* ‘Ordinary in an extraordinary situation’ Tandi Wright
* ‘I’d just like to say I’m very happy’ Gary Holden shows optimism before tragedy
* Robert Sarkies talked about NZ being in a bubble before the event and how the bubble popped after the event.
* The effect the film had on the actors.
* Insight into community spirit
* Insight into the workings of a small isolated community and how they reacted in this situation.
* Loss of innocence.
* Insight into NZ as a bigger extension of that community.
* ‘Coming Home in the Dark’ by Owen Marshal, shows us a side of NZ society that we don’t want to admit exists.
* Undramatised style of filming allows it to appear more realistic.
* References to actual film footage and photos.
* Genre sits between fiction and a real event- gives us insight into the event itself
* How the death of David is filmed
* Panning shots of his body
* Long shots over his face
* We don’t feel satisfied after he dies
* ‘Stacey you know me. I’m Jordan’s dad’ Nick Harvey, show the close knit community
* ‘He helped you build the place and babysat the kids’ Gary’s mum about David
* ‘There’s no problem in being eccentric otherwise they would lock up half the spit’ Gary’s mum, insight into the community at Aramoana was different. But different doesn’t mean dangerous.
* Use of Hairy McCleary as a point to reference the time of the event- popular kids book
* We know the event is in 1990 because of computer in cop station, music ‘The Dudes’, costumes ‘stubbies’, baches, honesty, school bus, sign, cars. They live in a different time.
* **Strongly agree that the film shows insight.**
* **We find out what happening in the horrific event in NZ history. It shows us what it felt like to be there.**
* ‘I could have shot him’ Nick Harvey ‘If you see him shoot him’, people being unprepared.
* How people react in stressful situations- Stu Guthrie, Nick, Helen, Chiquitta, bogan.
* Stu being scared in the grass- ‘It’s making me very nervous’
* Chiquitta running with ringing sound in her ears.
* David’s character isn’t offered insight but you could talk about the conversation in the gun shop and ‘freak out’ scene in Dunedin.
* David seeing things that aren’t there- kids laughing on the bus, police in his house.
* Sarkies purpose in making the film was to show the strength of the community and also present an unbiased portrayal of these events which had such an impact on NZ society.
* ‘How could something so horrible happen on such a beautiful day’ Sarkies
* This tragedy shocked New Zealand in a profound way. It cut to the core of our idyllic self-image of our country - 'gods own country', 'a great place to bring up kids'- Sarkies

To what extent do you agree that the **techniques** of a film are ideally suited to the treatment of the **themes**?

Discuss your views with close reference to the **treatment of a key theme** in a film you have studied, referring in detail to at least TWO techniques.

Class points:

* Theme- how a random act of violence shattered the innocence of a community and country irreversibly and how they coped with it.
* The community / kiwi spirit ‘I’ve just had my hips done’ Helen
* Parallel shot of Helen crawling in the dirt and how hard it is.
* Sound – when David is in town it is high pitched and shows his paranoia / create a mood, atmosphere, tone
* Opening music, piano makes you feel sad and reflective
* Gary’s death- is blatant and unapologetic, you can’t look away or flick pages to escape it. It was real for these people and not it is make real for the viewers.
* Camera perspective is from the victims pov,
* Handheld camera makes you feel as if you are actually there.